



CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

David A. Wood, Mayor
Kenneth L. Witkowski, Chief

November 15, 2016

Mayor David A. Wood
Board of Public Works and Safety
City Hall - 600 East Third Street
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Re: Police Officers of the 3rd Quarter – 2016

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

I am honored to announce Pfc. Donald Siders and Lt. Kevin Will as recipients of Officers of the Third Quarter for 2016.

Officers Siders is being recognized for his efforts displayed on a couple of nights in July of 2016.

On **July 15, 2016** Officer Siders was dispatched to a residence regarding a burglary report. An unknown person had entered the home and removed (2) televisions and (1) AR-15 rifle. Later that day, Officers Siders was called back to the scene where he collected blood evidence and a new description of a potential suspect. He viewed surveillance footage from a neighbor that positively identified the suspect. The video also showed the suspect leaving the crime scene in a green Ford van. As Officers Siders was gathering this information, the victim pointed out a green van driving by the house and identified the suspect driving the van. Officer Siders immediately entered his patrol car and a traffic stop was initiated, however, the suspect fled the scene. A vehicle pursuit resulted that continued into South Bend and through several neighborhoods. Ultimately the suspect drove the van off the roadway, coming to a stop where the suspect exited the vehicle and fled on foot. With the assistance of K9 and additional officers, the suspect was taken into custody. Later that evening, the victim's property was returned to him, along with his AR-15 rifle.

On **July 23, 2016**, during routine patrol, Officer Siders observed a person driving a reported stolen vehicle. After verifying the vehicle as stolen, he stopped the vehicle and arrested the driver. During the investigation, Officer Siders recovered methamphetamines and several pieces of narcotic paraphernalia. The stolen vehicle was returned to the owner later that day.

Officer Siders continues to be vigilant and aggressive in his daily duties. He is always eager to perform at a high level and his positive attitude toward law enforcement is encouraging to others.

Emergency..... 911
Front Desk 574-258-1678
Investigative Division 574-258-1684
Records Division 574-258-1681

Chief 574-258-1683
Uniform Chief..... 574-258-1688
Traffic Division 574-259-2966
Fax 574-258-1690

On **July 4, 2016**, a robbery took place at the University Park Mall. The victim, a Chinese National, Notre Dame student, & young mother, was with her infant child in her car when a man approached her. The man pointed a gun at her and demanded her wallet, keys and cell phone. The victim's credit card was used several times from Mishawaka to Benton Harbor, MI.

Lt. Will was assigned the case and immediately released information to an electronic crime sharing network. Berrien County Sheriff's officers responded and checked one of the locations where the stolen credit card was used. They were able to get a photo of the suspect using the victim's card.

Berrien County Detectives Joe Margherone, Rick Biggart, and Eugene Casto were able to locate the suspect and take him into custody. Lt. Will then assisted with interviewing the suspect who eventually confessed to assisting the person who committed the robbery.

The second suspect was quickly apprehended due to a parole violation and once again, Lt. Will joined Berrien County Detectives with interviewing the suspect. After a full confession from both suspects, Robbery charges were filed in St. Joseph County.

Detective Will's persistent motivation to solve this case was displayed by his cooperation with Berrien County and then again the Michigan State Parole Office. According to Detective Will: "I credit Berrien County Detectives Margherone, Biggart, and Casto entirely with the success of this case. Detective Will also recognized Parole Officer Robby Johnson and Supervisor Nancy Waaso for their immediate assistance in locating and apprehending one of their parolees.

The Mishawaka Police Department is in the process of purchasing plaques to thank and support the Berrien County Sheriff's Department. The plaques will be personally delivered to Detectives Margherone, Biggart, and Casto in Berrien County.

On behalf of the MPD and my Administration, I could not be more proud and honored to present Officers Pfc. Donald Siders and Lt. Kevin Will "Officers of the Third Quarter" for 2016.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd

Personnel Files